

CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY ADVISORY COMMISSION (CJPAC)

Thursday, January 26, 2017

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: *Chairman Mike Lawlor*, Under Secretary, Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division, OPM; *Merit Lajoie* – Office of the Victim Advocate; *Carleton Giles*, Chairperson, Board of Pardons and Paroles; *Karen Jarmoc*, CEO, CCADV; *Ariel Riecht*, Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection; *Scott Semple*, Commissioner, Department of Corrections; *Brian Carlow*, Chief Public Defender; *Kevin Kane*, Chief State’s Attorney, *Judge Carroll*, Judicial Branch, *Loel Meckel*, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, *Steve Grant*, Court Support Services Division, *Laura Cordes*, Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence

I. Introductions

This meeting was not broadcast on CT-N.

The Monthly Indicators Report can be found on the OPM website:

http://www.ct.gov/opm/lib/opm/cjppd/cjresearch/monthlyindicators/monthlyindicatorsreport_dec_2016_final_corrected.pdf

II. Welcome and Policy Updates

III. Approval of Minutes from December, 2016

- a Minutes were adopted following one correction.

IV Commission Correspondence

- b No Commission Correspondence

V. Presentations

- a. Connecticut's BEST Chance Integrated Basic Education Skills Training (IBEST Program), Alex Johnson, Acting CEO & President, Capital Workforce Partners
 - Goals: Industry based certificates, Job Placement and Reduce Recidivism
 - Speaker: S & S Company hired 4 people from this IBEST Program
 - Speaker: Participant in the program, got CPR, OSHA, scaffolding, and forklift training, and got a job at Home Depot, and an additional certificate in masonry

VI. Members provided updates on their agencies and latest initiatives.

Chiefs of Police – they also believe the body camera laws are too restrictive, and is putting a burden of cost of storage onto the police departments, however they believe cameras help with transparency and complaints, but they don’t know for how long they will be able to keep it up before it cannot be sustained any longer. Local municipal police departments will be impacted by budget cuts in the form of layoffs.

Chief States Attorney Office –They are facing the budget crisis as well. A big issue for them is that 30% of the prosecutor’s time is spent watching video from body cams and car cams and store cams. Every sworn officer is required by law to wear the camera whenever you interact with the public for law enforcement purposes, the exceptions seem not very narrow to them, the policy cannot be more restrictive than the law, and every officer is required to have a video, which will only increase the time spent watching video for the prosecutors. The Judicial Branch has put together a committee to discuss and solve this major issue. They are still working on diversionary

pre arrest and pre charge, which are prioritized by conduct, this is to reduce the cases not suited for the criminal justice system, and they hope to change the attention from the back end of the system to the beginning end of the system to help people stay out of the criminal justice system.

Department of Correction (DOC) – The numbers for today are 10,898 sentenced down 989 or 8.3% from last year, 3,819 accused down 135 or 3.4% from last year and in the community there are 4,579 people, up 491 from last year a 12% increase. There are 116 inmates on Home Confinement Status. The Young Adult Unit will open January 30th, there is an article on it in the CT Mirror: <http://ctmirror.org/2017/01/23/a-prison-experiments-with-the-young-reckless-and-neuroscience/> Soon they will do a presentation on the Unit to CJPAC.

Board of Pardons and Paroles (BOPP) – 63% increase for applications for pardons. In 2015 they conducted a lean process at BOPP, the changes were implemented in 2016. In June of 2016 they began juvenile reconsideration hearings.

Office of the Victims Advocate – They submitted their legislative priorities. On Tuesday, February 28th from 2-3:30 at the Alliance in East Hartford they will hold their next Victims Issues Subcommittee meeting.

Public Defenders Office – The Public Defender’s office voiced concerns about budgetary cuts effects on their office.

Judicial Branch- Contingency planning for the budget, they are 3% of the state budget but sustained 9% of the state cuts, consolidation of offices, as a result victims and police transporting people will have to drive further to the courts

Connecticut Coalition against Domestic Violence (CCADV): Their shelters are at 125% capacity, they released a report on children’s experiences in shelters, March 3rd at Quinnipiac Law School there will be an all-day conference on Family Violence

Court Support Services Division (CSSD) – Rearrests rates have continued a downward trend. Adult Probation 24-Months Rearrests: 38.76% for 2016, down 8% from its peak, Juvenile Probation 24-month Rearrests: 55.98% in 2016, down 9% from its peak, and AIC – 12 Month Rearrests for Completers: 27.5% in 2016, down 5% from its peak. CSSD met recently to review progress toward further defining the population of inmates that are coded as “Discharged – Did Not Return from Court” by DOC, could present this information in March at CJPAC.

Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) – no updates

Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS)– 21st Century Cures Act is money for the state to address opioids and overdoses, Connecticut received 5.5 million for each of two years, DMHAS has met with partners and the plan for services and programs is due in the middle of February.

VII. Subcommittee Updates

PJOR – no update

Behavioral health – no update

Victim issues – On Tuesday, February 28th from 2-3:30 at the Alliance in East Hartford they will hold their next Victims Issues Subcommittee meeting.

VIII. Public Comment

No public comment

IX. Adjournment

Mike Lawlor adjured the meeting at 11:10.